



ALEXANDRIA, VA.
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15.

The Richmond Whig has a judicious invocation for harmony of feeling and action on the Legislature of Virginia. The first duty, says the Whig for the Legislature, "is to devote all its energies to the well-being of the people of Virginia. Different members may entertain different views in respect to the best means to obtain that great end. But they are all the trusted representatives of their people, who need every help which the wisdom, the patriotism, the sympathy, and the authority of the representative can devise. If possible, the whole body should bring themselves to feel that their individual interests are one and the same with those of the people and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Too much stress cannot be laid upon the importance of this oneness of feeling between all the representatives and all the constituents of the State."

The new apportionment bill which, yesterday, passed the House of Representatives, gives to Maryland six instead of five members of the House of Representatives. In the new districting of the States each district must be composed of contiguous territory, containing as nearly as practicable an equal number of inhabitants, to prevent what is called "gerrymandering" by the Legislatures. It also enacts that the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1876, the members of the Forty-fifth Congress shall be elected in all the States, and on the same day every second year thereafter, so that the Congressional elections in all the States will take place on the same day. The number of members of the House is fixed at 288. Virginia to have nine Representatives.

The Fredericksburg Herald in an article relating to Virginia Lands says:—"Corn is selling in Illinois and Iowa at twenty cents a bushel, and in Minnesota, Kansas, and Nebraska at lower rates. Other cereals command no better prices in proportion to their value, as wheat sells at from fifty cents to a dollar in the States enumerated above. Wheat and corn are the staples of the West and North West as well as they are of Maryland and Virginia, and yet they are worth not half as much in the Western States in which they are raised as there are in this State and Maryland. Why then should immigrants go West and struggle against low prices, when better markets are afforded nearer the Atlantic coast, with lands equally as fertile, and a climate far superior in every respect?"

A letter from Richmond, in the Baltimore Gazette, says, during the discussion in the Immigration Convention, some "English settlers spoke and concurred in saying that we have a sufficiency of labor under the circumstances, and the colored man is the best and cheapest laborer by odds that they know of. They all insisted that we chiefly needed capital, and the men who could bring at least money enough to buy a small farm and work it. Several of the Virginia gentlemen, however, contended that the colored man, whom they had tried in every way and on every plan since the war, was unreliable, and the only hope of Virginia was to procure good white laborers."

In the course of the debate in the Senate, yesterday, on Mr. Anthony's resolution, Mr. Tipton said "he believed there was deep, damning and festering corruption all through this administration. He believed the country was cursed with the plundering officeholders of this administration. But he did not believe this was a reflection on the republican party; he believed that the republican party was yet worthy to be saved. He refused to be read out of the party because he did not fall down and worship the 'intellectual colossus' who sits in the White House."

The editor of the Christian World in the following paragraph writes evidently from experience. He says:—"We can safely recommend a graduate of a newspaper office for almost any station in life, at least or all such as require a pretty good knowledge of the peculiarities and characteristics of the human family. A man who can preserve the serenity of his temper, the sweetness of a Christian disposition, and an unflinching perseverance amid all the obstacles and difficulties which newspaper publication presents, deserves to be ranked with Job for patience, Baxter for goodness and the Iron Duke for nerve and determination."

A claim has been presented to the U. S. Government by the British and Hawaiian vessels which saved the seamen of the whaling fleet recently wrecked in the Northern Pacific ocean. It amounts to \$9,520, which is at the rate of \$35 for each seaman. The matter will be decided by the Secretary of the Treasury, who will pay what he shall conclude is a reasonable compensation.

An explanation was made in the French National Assembly, yesterday, of the cause of the delay of the commission of inquiry into the capitulation of their fortifications and armies during the war with Germany. Examination had been made into some of the cases, and the commanders of six fortresses had been sentenced to undergo punishment.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Negley has introduced a bill prohibiting that harbor, port, or pilotage fees, dues, or other taxes or imposts, be levied or pretended to be levied on the tonnage, merchandise, trade, imports, or cargoes of any vessel, or the vessel itself, by virtue of the authority of any State or municipal government, except wharfage, pierage, and dockage, and enacting that the collection or attempt to collect the same or any portion thereof, be a penal offense.

We are indebted to Mr. Thos. E. Taylor, of the State Senate, for copies of public documents,

NEWS OF THE DAY.

"To show the very age and body of the Times."

Allen Pinkerton states that after a severe fight two of the men who robbed the express car on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad some two months ago, were captured on Monday last in Missouri, near Verona, by detectives. During the past two months the Southern Express Company have had a number of detectives on the track of these men. One of the robbers is still at large.

In the South Carolina Ku-Klux trials yesterday, the court was chiefly occupied hearing witnesses for the defense, who testified to the alarm and excitement among all classes in York county, caused by the organization of the colored militia. The grand jury found true bills against several more of the alleged conspirators of York county.

The irrepressible Tennie C. Claflin complained to a New York Justice, yesterday, that her father and mother were a source of great annoyance to her and Mrs. Woodhull, and requested that a warrant might be issued for their arrest. The Justice complied with the request.

The lower House of the Legislature of Wyoming yesterday repealed the law in reference to woman suffrage, but the co-ordinate branch failed to sustain the repeal for want of the requisite two-thirds vote.

The revolutionists in Mexico are still in possession of Mazatlan, and are busily engaged in preparing for an attack by the Government forces. It is said that the prospects of the Juarez Government are more favorable.

Subscription to the thirty-nine articles is no longer a pre-requisite to receiving a degree from Oxford University. The English press seems to welcome every indication of religious toleration.

South Carolina bonds have risen slightly, under the belief that the worst is now known about the State finances, and that repudiation will not take place; but the taxpayers are still furious.

Panama papers state there is excitement on the Isthmus relative to raising emeralds, the fabulous price of \$95 per 100 lbs. being realized there. It sells in New York for \$12 per pound.

The President has not received a request from Gen. Schenck asking permission to resign his present position as Minister to England—all reports to the contrary notwithstanding.

Germany, under her new military organization, will be enabled, in case of war, to put in the field within five days an army of 1,300,000 men.

The ex-Empress Eugenie has gone to Gibraltar, where she will take the steamer for England.

The noted Communist Gen. Dombrowski, landed in New York yesterday from Paris.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

A. H. H. Stuart, president of the late immigration convention, has appointed the following committee to lay the proceedings of the convention before the General Assembly: Gen. J. D. Imboden, of Richmond; Col. William Lamb, of Norfolk; Hon. Thomas S. Flournoy, of Halifax, and Major John H. Lee, of Orange. By the terms of the resolution creating this committee, Mr. Stuart is chairman.

Henry Ghiselin, one of the proprietors and editors of the Norfolk Journal, and whose whereabouts for several days past was unknown, has fled to Europe with an unmarried lady of that city. Ghiselin leaves behind him a wife and six children. It is stated that Ghiselin took away with him several thousand dollars belonging to his wife's mother.

A shooting affray occurred yesterday in Richmond, in front of the post office, between John Snelling and Andrew Montiero both sporting men, which resulted in Snelling being probably fatally wounded. Montiero was arrested; he is but slightly hurt. Last night Snelling was better, and hopes of his recovery were entertained by the surgeons.

U. S. Commissioner Buffum, in Lynchburg, has discharged James McGowan and E. J. Folks, the Conservative Judges of election in that city at the November election, who were arrested on the charge of violating the enforcement act.

The citizens of the eastern part of Rockingham county are making an effort to rebuild the bridges over the Shenandoah river at Port Republic, River Bank, and Miller's Mill, all of which were destroyed by the great freshet.

The Norfolk Journal of yesterday says that the paid fire department of that city goes into operation to-day. The new department is composed of the best material in the old department.

The first regular annual meeting of the Virginia and North Carolina Conference of the Colored M. E. Church in America, was held in Petersburg on Wednesday.

The widow of the late Mr. D. Wallach, of Culpeper, sold her crop of wheat (500 bushels) to Ficklen & Son, of Fredericksburg, last week, for \$1.32.

Miss Jeannie Patterson is giving her readings to large audiences in Staunton, Charlottesville, &c. She is universally admired.

Wild pigeons abound in Stafford county, and are killed in great numbers.

The Physicians of Lynchburg are engaged in vaccinating the people in their several districts.

VIRGINIA OYSTERMEN.—We ask our Legislature to adopt some humane principles on which to adjust the oyster tax, which at present is most ruinous.

There are two ways in which it might be levied, either one of which would be preferable to the present method.

1. The shores of the Commonwealth, below water mark, might be surveyed and marked off, after which the sheriff of each county could, under authority of law, rent them out in small parcels, under restrictions to prevent their falling into the hands of mere jobbers and speculators. This method would have the advantage of simplicity. The Rocks could be subjected to a separate tax for the privilege of taking oysters.

2. A convention with Maryland for uniformity in the laws of the two States under a system taxing the actual "catch."

This, indeed, seems to us indispensable; for with a more liberal system in our sister State the tax falls here on the poor oysterman and not on the rich consumer. In illustration of this, recall the effect of the tax of three cents per bushel on all carriers or purchasers of oysters. The effect was to send buyers to Maryland, and our own people were left without a market. In one word, and here is the key to the whole question, Virginia cannot afford to place greater restrictions on this industry than Maryland. Baltimore is the great oyster market of the country, and our excess of taxation over that imposed by our sister State is a dead loss to the Virginia oysterman, who, competing with those of Maryland, are found to conform to their prices, by which means our people, and not the consumers in New York or Chicago, are made to pay the tax. If our friends will bear this in mind we may expect more judicious legislation than we have yet had on this subject.—*Norfolk Virginian.*

From Richmond.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, Dec. 14.—At a late hour to-night, after a harmonious session, the Conservative members of the Legislature, in conference assembled, Judge Watts of Portsmouth in the chair, nominated the following officers by acclamation: James McDonald, Secretary of the Commonwealth; William F. Taylor, First Auditor; General Asa Rodgers, Second Auditor.

For Superintendent of the State Penitentiary, Col. J. French Strother was renominated by the following vote: Strother, 80; Major Hutter, of Lynchburg, 20; J. H. Dejanette, of Caroline, 18.

For the office of Treasurer the following gentlemen were put in nomination: Col. Joseph Mayo of Westmoreland, Capt. Raleigh Colston of Albemarle, Judge Nowlan of Carroll, Major Lee of Orange, Mr. Wayman of Rappahannock, Mr. Butler of Hanover, and C. C. Buckner of Rappahannock. Geo. Rye, (present incumbent,) was withdrawn before the vote was taken. Before the result of the ballot was announced it was evident that Col. Mayo had received the nomination by a large majority, and his nomination was made unanimous, without a count.

Maj. J. M. Stephens was renominated for penitentiary storekeeper over Messrs. Menifee, of Rappahannock, and Braxton, of Henrico. The vote stood Stephens, 76; Menifee, 31; Braxton, 11.

Judge J. T. Goolrick was nominated for Judge of the city of Fredericksburg and county of Spotsylvania, and J. H. Sherrard for Judge of the county of Frederick.

The election will take place on Monday at 1 o'clock.

The Senate, to-day, was principally engaged in routine business. A report was made from the Committee on Courts of Justice, in response to a resolution, in regard to the responsibility of the sheriffs of a sheriff on his official bond. Bills were reported to amend the Code in relation to docketing judgments and other liens of a like nature; and to continue the payment of interest and dividends to the incorporated colleges, or other seminaries of learning in this State.

A bill was presented to authorize the formation of railroad corporations and to regulate the same.

Among the resolutions of inquiry introduced were the following: into the expediency of levying tax upon dogs; as to enacting a law making the failure of an attorney at law or a commissioner for the sale of property, or a receiver of a court to account for and pay over money received by them in the discharge of their duties as such, a misdemeanor, and punishable as such; as to what action has been taken by the Judges of the Supreme Court to carry out the provisions of the act authorizing them to prescribe rules regulating practice, &c.; as to legislation in regard to the return of delinquent taxes by the county treasurers.

The Senate bill to amend an act in relation to the rule days for county and corporation courts, and declaring when office judgements shall be final, was passed—yeas 30, nays 5.

The Senate bill to amend an act in relation to horse stealing (making the punishment confinement in the penitentiary for not less than three nor more than eighteen years) was advanced to a third reading.

A joint resolution was introduced, but under the rules, lies over, providing that the judges appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancies that have occurred in the office of county judge during the recess continue to fill such vacancies until the qualification of their successors under the next regular election.

In the House of Delegates the Speaker laid before the House the following statement of the Treasurer giving the results of the funding under the act of the last Legislature: Whole amount funded, \$28,069,457.52; in coupon bonds, \$12,361,500.00; in registered bonds, \$6,351,471.65; certificates for one-third, \$9,356,485.84.

The following bills were reported: to incorporate the Shenandoah Savings Bank; to amend the Code in relation to attorneys generally.

The Committee for Courts reported it inexpedient to pass a law allowing debtors claiming the benefit of the homestead exemption to appeal from a lower court without bond and security, and suspending execution in such cases until the constitutionality of the law be decided.

House bills were passed to supply incorporated colleges in which law schools are established with surplus law publications; continuing the payment of interest and dividends to the incorporated colleges and other seminaries of learning in the State—yeas 109, nays none; and to amend the Code in relation to sales under attachment.

Among the resolutions introduced was one providing for a commission in Westmoreland county, for the purpose of correcting and reviewing the land books.

The bill to repeal the act authorizing chain gangs was dismissed by a vote of 71 to 31.

The House resolution to discontinue the issue of bonds required to be issued by the act for funding the public debt, was taken up; and the question being on its third reading and engrossment, a motion to refer the resolution to the Committee on Finance was lost by a vote of 40 yeas to 74 nays, and after an animated debate the resolution was made the special order for Friday at 1 o'clock. During the debate Mr. Kelly, of Fredericksburg, spoke warmly against repudiation and for maintaining the honor of the State. Messrs. Hill, Coghill, Gilman, Sutherland, and Brooke participated in the discussion. Messrs. Sutherland and Brooke protested against the idea that the resolution could be construed into repudiation.

Mr. Brooke, of Fauquier, contended that the Legislature can repeal the funding bill, provided it does not thereby violate contracts, without in any sense committing repudiation. The anticipated debate in the Senate on the funding bill did not take place, and will no doubt be deferred until the subject shall have been disposed of by the House.

A report from the House Committee on Privileges and Elections upon the Lunsburg contested case is that the election was not held according to law, is therefore null and void, and the seat vacant, was discussed, but finally tabled.

CANNON BALL TREE.—Among the plants of Guinea one of the most curious is the cannon ball tree. It grows to the height of sixty feet, and its flowers are remarkable for beauty and fragrance, and contradictory qualities. Its blossoms are of a delicious crimson, appearing in large bunches, and exhaling a rich perfume. The fruit resembles enormous cannon balls, hence the name. However, some say it has been so called because of the noise which the ball makes in bursting. From the shell domestic utensils are made, and the contents contain several kinds of acids, besides sugar and gum, and furnish the material for making an excellent drink in sickness. But, singular as it may appear, this pulp, when in perfectly ripe state, is very filthy, and the odor from it is exceedingly unpleasant.

THE LATE GEN. ANDERSON.—An official order from the War Department announces the death of Brigadier Gen. Robert Anderson, at Nice, France, on the 26th of October last, speaks in commendatory terms of the character of the deceased, and mentions that on the 14th of April, 1865, exactly four years after his surrender of Fort Sumter, he had the satisfaction, by appointment of the government, of again hoisting the identical flag, which meantime had never left his custody, over the same fort, then reduced to a heap of ruins. His remains have been placed on board the U. S. ship-of-war Guerrier for transportation to the U. S. On their arrival proper orders will be issued to do them honor.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—A chapter of the Code of Virginia expressly provides that the court of every county or corporation shall constantly keep for the use of said county or corporation a set of weights and measures and balances conformable to the standards of the State and sealed by the superintendent, and a penalty is imposed upon a court for non-compliance with the law. Notwithstanding these plain provisions of the statute, it was found in August last that forty-eight cities and counties had no such sets on hand, and forty-two returned no answer to the superintendent's letter of inquiry. Augusta, Brunswick, Charlotte, Frederick, Fauquier, Surry, Fredericksburg, Petersburg, and Richmond city, had incomplete sets, and the only counties having full sets were Botetourt, Clarke, Henry, Hanover, Page and Shenandoah.

On receipt of these responses Captain Kellam advised for and received proposals for having made a sufficient number of sets to supply each county according to law. Accordingly, a contract was awarded to M. H. Clarke for fifty sets at \$150 per set, and the sets were manufactured and delivered to the superintendent, he paying therefor \$7,500. Since then he has furnished Nansemond, Norfolk, Richmond, and Rockbridge counties, and the corporations of Danville and Norfolk with full sets, and for these six sets \$900 have been received. The charge per set is \$150. The remaining forty-four sets are now in the possession of the superintendent, and are stored in the bell-house on the Capitol Square awaiting the application of counties and corporations for them, as required by the 4th section of chapter 89 of the Code.

It should not be forgotten that the legislation of the Commonwealth on this subject has been responsive to congressional recommendations, and is part and parcel of a plan of Congress to provide uniform standards of weights and measures throughout the country. In pursuance of this object, the importance of which needs no enforcement, the Federal Government has at a heavy expense furnished the States with standards of a most expensive and superior quality, expecting the States to supply the counties and corporations with standards conformable to them of inferior cost and quality. Unless the State performs its part of this plan by requiring counties and corporations to keep standards accessible to the community, and requiring dealers to conform their private weights and measures to these standards, the value of the institution will in a great measure be lost.—*Rich. Dispatch.*

A San Francisco paper of recent date says that the murderer, Laura D. Fair, is still confined in cell No. 31, near the entrance to the upper corridor of the jail—the same one in which she was placed after the jury which tried her announced her guilty of the crime charged against her—and is in the enjoyment of good health. Her features have assumed a deathly pallor which is always noticeable on persons who have been kept imprisoned in a prison away from the bright rays of the sun and the fresh, invigorating air for month after month.

The Board of Arbitration appointed under the Treaty of Washington will assemble to-day at Geneva.

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